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Remarks

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application.

In the Office Action mailed December 4, 2000, the Examiner rejected claims 2 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2, as indefinite. The Examiner also provisionally rejected claims 1-16 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting in view of claims 1-20 of co-pending Application Serial No. 09/470,363, assigned to the Assignee of the present application.

In response, the Applicants have amended claims 2 and 10 to overcome the Examiner's rejection thereof under § 112, ¶ 2. In addition, a Terminal Disclaimer is filed herewith to overcome the Examiner's provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection of claims 1-16.

As a result, the Applicants believe that claims 1-16, as amended, now meet both the formal and substantive requirements for patentability, and that the application is in proper condition for allowance. Accordingly, such action by the Examiner is respectfully requested.

If a telephone conference would expedite allowance or resolve any additional questions, such a call is invited at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,
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Attachment

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